UNITED NATIONS

Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.
GENERAL

ICCD/COP(1)/11
29 December 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES ON ITS FIRST SESSION, HELD IN ROME FROM 29 SEPTEMBER TO 10 OCTOBER 1997

PART ONE: PROCEEDINGS

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE (agenda item 1)	1-5	3
	A. Opening of the session	1	3
	B. Election of the President	2-3	3
	C. Opening and general statements	4-5	3
II.	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS (agenda items 2, 4, 3, 6)	6-33	4
	A. Adoption of the rules of procedure	6	4
	B. Adoption of the agenda	7	4
	C. Election of officers other than the President	8-11	5
	D. Organization of work	12-19	6
	E. Committee on Science and Technology	20-23	7

GE.97-65353

CONTENTS (continued)

		Paragraphs	Page
F.	Admission of organizations as observers	24-28	8
G.	Attendance	29-32	9
H.	Documentation	33	10
III.	HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT (agenda item 4)	34	10
IV.	DIALOGUE ON BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS (agenda item 4)	35-36	10
V.	DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (agenda item 7)	37-52	11
VI.	CONCLUSION OF THE SESSION	53-57	14
A.	Statement concerning countries of Central and Eastern Europe	53	14
B.	Adoption of the report on credentials	54	14
C.	Date and venue of the second session of the Conference of the Parties	55-56	14
D.	Adoption of the report of the Conference of the Parties on its first session	57	14

Annexes

		Page
Annex I	Summaries of opening statements (agenda item 4)	15
Annex II	List of speakers for high-level segment (agenda item 4)	18
Annex III	List of documents before the Conference at its first session	24

PART TWO: ACTION TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES AT ITS FIRST SESSION*/

I. DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

II. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

---

*/ Part Two of this report is contained in document ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1

I. OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

A. Opening of the session (agenda item 4)

1. The first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP1), convened pursuant to article 22 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD), was opened at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, on 30 September 1997 by Mr. Hama Arba Diallo, Executive Secretary, in his capacity as head of the interim secretariat. Welcoming all participants to the Conference, he thanked the Government and people of Italy, and the authorities and citizens of Rome, for their generosity in hosting the Conference as well as FAO for having made it possible to hold the first session of the Conference of the Parties at its headquarters.

B. Election of the President (agenda item 1)

2. At its 1st meeting on 30 September, the Conference elected H.E. Mr. Lamberto Dini, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy, as President by acclamation.

3. At the same meeting, the President made a welcoming statement. He welcomed participants to Rome, and stressed that Italy attributed great importance to dialogue, compromise, mutual understanding and global solidarity, issues which were essential to foster development and to protect the environment. The CCD was an instrument not only to deal with a problem affecting the physical integrity of the planet, but also the well being and peaceful socio-economic development of humanity. Desertification causes impoverishment of people. The problem was not merely technical but political, including economic concerns, and social sensitivity. Desertification was a common problem, and the responsibility of the entire international community. The CCD represents the best efforts to effectively redesign a North-South partnership. The COP1 agenda essentially defines the implementation of the instruments of the Convention. Although a fairly clear picture was emerging, some sensitive issues still needed to be debated, including the Global Mechanism, the programme of work, and the Secretariat's budget. He highlighted the importance of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) in implementing the CCD.

C. Opening and general statements (agenda item 4)

4. At its 1st plenary meeting on 30 September, a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations was conveyed to the Conference by Mr. Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs; and opening statements were made by Ambassador Bo Kjellén, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (INCD); Mr. Jacques Diouf, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); Professor G.O.P. Obasi, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO); Mr. Fawzi H. Al-Sultan, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); Mr. Anders Wijkman, Assistant Administrator, speaking on behalf of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Mr. Franklin Cardy, Executive Coordinator Natural Resources, speaking on behalf of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); and Mr. Hama Arba Diallo, Executive Secretary of the interim secretariat of the CCD. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 30 September, Mr. Calestous Juma, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity made a statement. At its 5th meeting, on 3 October, Mr. Michael Zammit Cutajar, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change made a statement. Summaries of the above statements are contained in annex I below.

5. Further statements were delivered by: Dr. Carlos Lemos Simmonds, Vice-President of Colombia, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement; Ms. Mariam Sidibé, Executive Secretary of the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS); Mr. Roy Stacy, Director of the Club du Sahel of Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); Mr. Hassan Saoude, Director-General of the Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones (ACSAD); Mr. Debalkew Berhe, Representative of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD); Mr. Thomas Schaaf, Programme Specialist in the Division of Ecological Sciences of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); Mr. Douglas Hykle, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS); Dr. Bill Phillips, Deputy Secretary-General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; and Mr. Enoch Okpara, Representative of Nigerian Environmental Study/Action Team (NEST), Nigeria, on behalf of the non-governmental organizations attending the Conference.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Adoption of the rules of procedure (agenda item 2)

6. At its 1st plenary meeting on 30 September, the Conference decided to adopt the rules of procedure as attached to INCD decision 10/6 (see A/52/82, appendix II), with the exception of paragraph 1 of rule 6, paragraph 1 of rule 22, rule 31, and paragraph 1 of rule 47, and to apply provisionally rules 22 and 31 in relation to the size of the Bureau. At its 13th plenary meeting on 10 October, the Conference, having considered further the rules of procedure, resolved some of the outstanding matters and took a further decision on the rules: see Part Two, decision 1/COP.1.

B. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 4)

7. At its 1st plenary meeting on 30 September, the Conference adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of President
2. Adoption of rules of procedure
3. Election of other officers
4. Adoption of agenda and organization of work
5. Credentials of delegations
6. Accreditation of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, admission of observers
7. Adoption of recommendations to the Conference and other decisions and conclusions requiring action by the Conference of the Parties
   - (a) Maintenance of interim arrangements referred to in paragraph 13 of resolution 51/180, including interim financial arrangements
   - (b) Adoption of financial rules
   - (c) Approval of programme and budget:
     - (i) Adoption of the Convention budget and programme for the biennium 1998-1999

(ii) Related budget decisions

(iii) Extrabudgetary funding for the Secretariat for 1998

- Trust Fund for support of Secretariat;
- Special Voluntary Fund to assist developing countries to participate

(iv) Programme of work for the second and third Conferences of the Parties

(d) Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning

(i) Institutional linkage

(ii) Physical location

(e) Organization to house Global Mechanism and agreement on its modalities

(f) Communication of information and review of implementation, including format and timetable

(g) Terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology

(h) Programme of work of the Committee on Science and Technology

(i) Terms of reference of the roster of scientific experts

(j) Adoption of the procedure for the establishment of ad hoc panels

(k) Establishment of the roster of experts

(l) Creation of ad hoc panel(s) of experts, if necessary, with their terms of reference

C. Election of officers other than the President (agenda item 3)

8. At its 1st plenary meeting on 30 September, the Conference elected Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud Ould El-Ghaouth (Mauritania) as Vice-President of the Conference.

9. At its 3rd plenary meeting on 2 October, the President read out the following statement:

"The Conference of the Parties noted that the Eastern European Group currently had only one Party to the Convention and it therefore decided that it would be appropriate not to leave the second Bureau seat, to which that regional group was entitled, empty at the present session, but rather to fill it.

This COP decision was made on the understanding that the action was exceptional and that the seat would revert to the Eastern European Group at the second session of the COP.

This decision of the COP does not in any way prejudice the interest of any Group in future meetings of the COP."

10. The Conference then elected by acclamation the following officers to serve on its Bureau:

Vice-Presidents:

Ms. Maria Julia Alsogaray (Argentina)
Mr. Samvel Baloyan (Armenia)
Mr. Miguel Eduardo Araujo Padilla (El Salvador)
Mr. Andri Bisaz (Switzerland)
Mr. Abdul Hameed Al-Monajed (Syrian Arab Republic)
Mr. Harold Acemah (Uganda)
Mr. Katinda Kamando (United Republic of Tanzania)

Vice-President-cum-Rapporteur:

Mr. Mohammad Reza H.K. Jabbari (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Chairman of the Committee on Science and Technology:

Mr. Ricardo Sanchez-Sosa (Cuba)

11. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Benin (on behalf of the African States Group), Belgium (on behalf of the Western European and Other States Group), Armenia (on behalf of the Eastern European States Group), the Islamic Republic of Iran (on behalf of the Asian States Group) and Honduras (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States Group).

D. Organization of work (agenda item 4)

12. At its 1st plenary meeting on 30 September, the Conference approved the proposed organization of work for the session as contained in document ICCD/COP(1)/1 and Corr.1.

Establishment of the Committee of the Whole

13. At the same meeting, the Conference decided to establish a Committee of the Whole to negotiate issues pending from the INCD, as well as other substantive issues, including the draft decisions contained in documents A/AC.241/L.42 and L.43.

14. The Committee of the Whole was open to the participation of all delegations. It had the task of recommending decisions on outstanding issues for adoption by the Conference. Its Chairman had the authority to delegate work, as appropriate, to drafting groups.

15. At the same meeting, upon the proposal of the President, the Conference designated Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud Ould El-Ghaouth (Mauritania) as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole.

Terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology

16. At its 1st plenary meeting on 30 September, the Conference adopted the terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology as set forth in INCD decision 9/10 (see Part Two, decision 15/COP.1).

Initial and high-level segments

17. At its 1st plenary meeting on 30 September, the Conference approved the organization of the session in two segments: an initial segment from 29 September to 6 October, in addition to the CST meeting, during which work could advance negotiations on any issues that were not resolved at the first and resumed parts of the tenth INCD session, and a high-level segment from 7 to 9 October. During the high-level segment, it was agreed that there would be general plenary discussion, including statements by heads of state or government, ministers and heads of delegation, dealing with implementation of the CCD, the resolutions on urgent action for Africa and interim measures in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Northern Mediterranean and other regions. The high-level segment could also take decisions on any issues remaining outstanding after the first week. On the proposal of the President, the Conference agreed that the time limit for statements during the ministerial segment should be set at six minutes.

18. The Conference approved the tentative schedule of plenary meetings contained in annex II to document ICCD/COP(1)/1 as amended by document ICCD/COP(1)/1/Corr.1, and agreed that the schedule of meetings for the Committee of the Whole should be determined by the Committee itself.

19. At its 13th plenary meeting on 10 October, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole reported to the Conference on the outcome of the work of the Committee, and presented a number of draft decisions which the Committee of the Whole recommended for adoption by the Conference of the Parties.

E. Committee on Science and Technology

20. The Committee on Science and Technology was convened 2 October 1997 under the chairmanship Mr. Ricardo Sánchez-Sosa (Cuba), and met 2 and 3 October.

21. On 2 October, it adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening
2. Election of vice-chairpersons
3. Adoption of agenda and organization of work
4. Report on work of other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the CST
5. Survey and evaluation of existing networks
6. Benchmarks and indicators
7. Modalities and timing of future work on inventories of research and traditional knowledge; establishment of research priorities
8. Roster of independent experts and creation, if necessary, of ad hoc panel(s)
9. Other intersessional work

22. On 2 October, the Committee adopted its agenda and elected Mr. Sun Hongli (China), Mr. Salah Tahoun (Egypt) and Ms. Linda Brown (United Kingdom) as vice-chairpersons of the Committee of Science and Technology.

23. The Committee on Science and Technology made a number of recommendations to the Conference of the Parties which took action (see paragraphs 50 and 51) on them at its 13th plenary meeting on 10 October.

F. Admission of organizations as observers (agenda item 6)

Observer status for intergovernmental organizations

24. At its 1st plenary meeting on 30 September, the Conference adopted the decision on the participation of intergovernmental organizations referred to in the recommendations contained in INCD decision 10/12 (see A/52/82, appendix II), as modified in document ICCD/COP(1)/2/Corr.1 (see Part Two, decision 26/COP.1).

25. At the same meeting, the representative of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development made a statement.

26. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

27. At the same meeting, the Executive Secretary of the interim secretariat made a statement.

Accreditation of non-governmental organizations

28. At its 2nd plenary meeting on 30 September, the Conference decided to adopt the decision on accreditation of the non-governmental organizations referred to in the recommendation contained in INCD decision 10/12, as modified in documents ICCD/COP(1)/2/Corr.1 and ICCD/COP(1)/8 (see Part Two, decision 26/COP.1).

G. Attendance

29. The first session of the Conference of the Parties was attended by representatives of the following 102 Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification:

Afghanistan
Algeria
Angola
Antigua & Barbuda
Argentina
Armenia
Austria
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belgium
Benin
Bolivia
Botswana
Brazil
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cameroon
Canada
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
China
Cote d'Ivoire
Cuba
Denmark
Djibouti
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Gabon
Gambia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Grenada
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Haiti
Honduras
Iceland
India
Iran
Israel
Italy
Jordan
Kazakstan
Kenya
Kuwait
Lebanon
Lesotho
Libya
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Mali
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Micronesia
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Namibia
Nepal
Netherlands
Niger
Nigeria
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Portugal
Saint Lucia
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Seychelles
Spain
St. Kitts & Nevis
Sudan
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Togo
Tunisia
Turkmenistan
Uganda
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
Uzbekistan
Yemen
Zambia

30. The session was also attended by observers from the following 34 States and one regional economic integration organization not parties to the Convention:

Australia
Azerbaijan
Bulgaria
Colombia
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Democratic Rep. of Congo
Dominica
European Community
Georgia
Guatemala
Holy See
Hungary
Indonesia
Iraq
Ireland
Japan
Kyrgyzstan
Lithuania
Malta
Philippines
Poland
Qatar
Republic of Korea
Romania
Russian Federation
South Africa
Thailand
Turkey
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United States of America
Venezuela
Zimbabwe

31. The following United Nations offices and programmes were represented:

United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
United Nations Information Centre (UNIC)
United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
United Nations Volunteers Programme (UNV)
World Food Programme (WFP)

32. The following specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system were represented:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Global Environment Facility (GEF)
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
World Bank
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

H. Documentation

33. The documents before the Conference of the Parties at its first session are listed in annex III below.

III. HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT
(agenda item 4)

34. The list of speakers at the high-level segment are listed in Annex II below.

IV. DIALOGUE ON BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS
(agenda item 4)

35. At the 11th plenary meeting of the COP1 on 9 October, the President opened the Plenary item "Dialogue on Building Partnerships for the Convention to Combat Desertification". The Chairman explained that this item was prepared by the non-governmental (NGO) community. The intention was to undertake an open discussion with delegates and interact on a less formal basis with them. He said the item was innovative and fully expressed the spirit of the Convention in its bottom-up approach. The plenary was then suspended and replaced by an informal session where participants broke into small groups to discuss the meaning of partnerships. A national case study on building partnerships for national action programmes was presented jointly by a government and several NGOs. Thereafter open discussion took place.

36. The resulting dialogue recognized that all sectors of society must be mobilized if combatting desertification was to be successful. The segment was effective in stressing the importance of open dialogue amongst all stakeholders, especially the NGOs and the local community; the need for mutual respect and awareness of the legitimate role of all stakeholders; the need to define the responsibilities and roles of all partners involved; and the political will on the part of implementing agencies to establish partnerships at every stage of the process of the national action programme.

V. DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (agenda item 7)

A. Decisions taken directly in the Plenary

Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location

37. At its 2nd plenary meeting on 30 September, the Conference began its consideration of the item and heard presentations by Mr. Clifford Lincoln, Member of Parliament of Canada, by Mr. Ramon Luis Valcarcel, President of the Region of Murcia, Spain, and by Mr. Wieghard Hardtl, State Secretary of the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany and Mrs. Baerbel Dieckmann, Lord Mayor of Bonn.

38. At its 4th plenary meeting on 3 October, the Conference heard a statement by the President.

39. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the contact group made a statement in explanation of the polling procedures for the selection of one of the three candidates to host the Permanent Secretariat.

40. At the same meeting, the Conference then conducted the poll by secret ballot.

41. At the same meeting, having been informed of the results of the secret ballot, the President proposed to the Conference that it take a consensus decision that the Permanent Secretariat be located in the City of Bonn, Germany.

42. At the same meeting, the Conference adopted the proposal of the President by consensus (see Part II, decision 5/COP.1).

43. At the same meeting, the President made a statement.

44. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Germany, Canada and Spain.

Other matters

45. At its 13th plenary meeting on 10 October, the Conference adopted the following decisions:

27/COP.1 Inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official programme of work of future sessions of the Conference of the Parties

29/COP.1 Credentials of the Parties

B. Decisions taken on the recommendation of INCD

46. At its 1st plenary meeting on 30 September, the Conference adopted the following decisions which had been recommended for adoption by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee:

15/COP.1 Terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology

47. At its 13th plenary meeting on 10 October, the Conference adopted the following decisions which had been recommended for adoption by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee:

1/COP.1 Rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties

2/COP.1 Financial rules of the Conference of the Parties

3/COP.1	Designation of a Convention Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative and support arrangements
11/COP.1	Procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation
17/COP.1	Procedures for the establishment of ad hoc panels
18/COP.1	Procedures for the establishment and maintenance of a roster of independent experts

C. Decisions taken on the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole

Organization to house the Global Mechanism and Agreement on its modalities (agenda item 7(e))

48. At its 13th plenary meeting on 10 October, the President reported that his informal consultations indicated a trend in favour of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to house the Global Mechanism. He noted that an understanding had developed that the United Nations Development Programme would nominate the head of the Global Mechanism for appointment by IFAD. The Conference then approved decision 24/COP.1 on the organisation to house the Global Mechanism and agreement on its modalities, and decision 25/COP.1 on collaborative institutional arrangements in support of the Global Mechanism.

Other matters

49. At its 13th plenary meeting on 10 October, the Conference also adopted the following decisions on the advice of the Committee of the Whole:

4/COP.1	Interim arrangements for the Conference of the Parties and for the Secretariat of the Convention
6/COP.1	Budget and programme of the Convention for 1999
7/COP.1	The Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund of the Convention
8/COP.1	Extrabudgetary funding for 1998
9/COP.1	Programme of work of the Conference of the Parties
10/COP.1	Review of the implementation of the Convention
12/COP.1	Regional Implementation Annexes
13/COP.1	Collaboration with other conventions
14/COP.1	Relations with the Global Environment Facility
26/COP.1	Accreditation of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations
28/COP.1	Date and venue of the second session of the Conference of the Parties

D. Decisions taken on the recommendation of the Committee on Science and Technology

50. At its 13th plenary meeting on 10 October, the Conference adopted the following decisions on the advice of the Committee on Science and Technology:

16/COP.1 Work programme of the Committee on Science and Technology

19/COP.1 Roster of independent experts

20/COP.1 Traditional knowledge

21/COP.1 Other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology

22/COP.1 Benchmarks and indicators

23/COP.1 Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies

51. In accordance with decision 21/COP.1, on the recommendation of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology, the Conference of the Parties decided at its 13th plenary meeting on 10 October to appoint the following ten experts to comprise an ad hoc group on benchmarks and indicators:

Surname	Name	Gender	Discipline
ABDEL KARIM	Ben Mohammed	M	Atmospheric & Nuclear Physics
ABDEROHAMAN	Hassan	M	Ecology / Ecosystems
KALLALA	Abdessalem	M	Environmental Planning, Forestry, Natural Resource Management
JU	Hongbo	M	Forestry, Natural Resource Management
AHMADI	Hassan	M	Environmental Planning, Natural Resource Management
MATTALO JUNIOR	Heitor	M	Planning and Policy
DIAZ MOREJON	Cristobal Félix	M	Hydrology
KETTEL	Bonnie	F	Anthropology & Sociology, Genetics, Natural Resource Management
MENDIZABAL	Teresa	F	Agricultural Sciences, Atmospheric Sciences, Ecology/Ecosystems, Soil Sciences
VALENTIN	Christian	M	Agricultural Sciences, Ecology/Ecosystems, Hydrology, Soil Sciences

and further decided to designate Mr. Hongbo Ju of China as its coordinator.

E. Resolutions

52. At its 13th plenary meeting on 10 October, the Conference adopted the following resolutions:

Resolution 1/COP.1 Expression of gratitude to the Government and people of Italy

Resolution 2/COP.1 Expression of gratitude to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

VI. CONCLUSION OF THE SESSION

A. Statement concerning countries of Central and Eastern Europe

53. At its 13th plenary meeting on 10 October, the President made the following statement:

"I noted statements made by some countries of Central and Eastern Europe concerning their wish to establish an additional regional instrument to the present Convention that would cover the specific concerns of these countries as well as the special commitments they are prepared to undertake within the framework of the Convention.

I understand those statements as an indication of the firm resolve of those countries to become soon Parties to the Convention by completing the process of the needed accession.

In this context consultations should be undertaken at an appropriate time and under the guidance of the Bureau of the COP in order to launch this process. These consultations will be facilitated by an early completion of the needed process of accession to the Convention."

B. Adoption of the report on credentials (agenda item 5)

54. At its 13th plenary meeting on 10 October, the Conference of the Parties, having considered the report on credentials of the Bureau of the first session of the Conference of the Parties (ICCD/COP(1)/10) and the recommendation contained therein, approved the report on credentials submitted by the Bureau of the first session of the Conference of the Parties. The text of decision 29/COP.1 is found in Part Two, section I, of this report.

C. Date and venue of the second session of the Conference of the Parties

55. At its 8th plenary meeting on 8 October, the representative of Senegal made a statement, expressing his country's interest in hosting the second session of the Conference of the Parties.

56. At its 13th plenary meeting on 10 October, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision 28/COP.1 on the date and venue of the second session of the Conference of the Parties, the text of which is contained in Part Two, section I, of this report.

D. Adoption of the report of the Conference of the Parties on its first session

57. At its 13th plenary meeting on 10 October, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft report on its first session (ICCD/COP(1)/11), authorising the Rapporteur, with the assistance of the interim Secretariat, to complete the report, as appropriate.

ANNEX I

Summaries of opening statements

1. At its 1st plenary meeting on 30 September 1997, a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations was conveyed to the Conference by Mr. Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. The CCD addressed a major global problem which should be an urgent priority area for the United Nations system. The 19th Special Session of the General Assembly in June this year had hailed the CCD's adoption and entry into force as one of the major accomplishments of the Rio process. COP1 was therefore a milestone on the path towards sustainable development. He stressed the CCD's emphasis on poverty as a major cause of land degradation, its bottom-up approach, the priority given to Africa, and the need to integrate economic, environmental and social concerns. Delegates would need to ensure that the Secretariat will have the necessary resources to meet countries' requirements and expectations. The decision on administrative arrangements for the Global Mechanism was of particular importance. More than one billion people seriously affected by desertification were in urgent need of decisive action.

2. Ambassador Bo Kjellén, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INCD), recalled the Convention's process, emphasizing that although the Convention grew out of the Rio process, its roots stretched further to the African droughts in the 1970s when the world's attention was directed to the problem of desertification. Guidance and leadership from African countries played a crucial role in the process. Although a lot had been done, work had only started now, and it must be ensured that the Convention will obtain its role as one of the main results from the Rio process. The first session of the CST underlined the importance of science and technology, and will establish an important basis for the exchange of experience and networking. A decision on the Global Mechanism was needed so that it could be operational by the second session of the Conference of the Parties (COP2). The discussion on the programme of work and the budget must be based on a shared conviction that a well functioning, efficient secretariat is indispensable. He stressed the innovative character of the Convention, and the global character of the problem of land degradation in the drylands. Although already more than hundred countries have ratified the Convention, he expressed hope that Australia, Japan and the United States would be Parties at COP2. This was a Convention to combat poverty and to create decent living conditions for millions of people. Results of the work must have an impact for the people in the drylands.

3. Mr. Jacques Diouf, Director General of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), welcomed participants at the FAO headquarters. He stressed the link between FAO's main objective of food security and that of sustainable development which required strong action in combatting desertification. The major challenge of the next century would be to reduce the number of malnutritioned people who lack adequate access to food. The poorest populations of the world, and those most affected by food insecurity, were situated in arid and semi-arid areas, in the most fragile ecosystems with limited natural resources. It was urgent to act before tragic and irreversible events would occur. FAO had been involved in the fight against desertification from the beginning, and participated in the work of the INCD and the Secretariat. He described some CCD relevant programmes that have been established by the FAO, such as a programme with UNEP which provides specific support to countries of Latin America. In its member states, FAO had emphasized popular participation and the involvement of women in implementing sustainable development.

4. Professor G.O.P. Obasi, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) stressed that the WMO would continue to provide strong scientific and technical support to the negotiating process and to the implementation of the CCD. The WMO would: ensure the availability of meteorological, climatological and hydrological data; promote the assessment and management of freshwater resources in affected areas; collaborate with other organizations with climate-related programmes; promote research on the linkage between desertification and climate; contribute to the development of indicators and benchmarks relevant to the Convention; support the assessment of possible impacts of global climate change on desertification; and provide support

to national Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and regional institutions. Financial resources and serious support for the CCD were crucial, and there was a need to base the CCD on sound scientific and technological knowledge rather than on politics alone. The CST should take into account activities related to Chapter 12 of Agenda 21, to establish an effective liaison with the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and to make full use of the experience of the WMO.

5. Mr. Fawzi H. Al-Sultan, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), described the CCD as the first international treaty that recognized the linkages between rural poverty and environmental degradation and which found fresh and imaginative ways of breaking the vicious circle. The principles that inspired the provisions of the CCD were very close to those that guided IFAD's own activities in the drylands. Major challenges which needed to be faced, were: to ensure that the National Action Programmes (NAPs) respond to the needs of local communities and to support an enabling environment for local area development; to create a supportive policy and institutional environment and disseminate appropriate technologies; to collaborate with development partners in support of the CCD's goals, and to finance the operations under the CCD. IFAD offered to host the Global Mechanism, which needed strong coalition of institutions concerned, but to ensure accountability it should be housed in one organization.

6. Mr. Anders Wijkman, Assistant Administrator, on behalf of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), highlighted the relationship between poverty, drought and land degradation. UNDP had embraced the CCD as an excellent framework for addressing poverty and environmental degradation. It was important to strengthen human resources development, to create systems of good governance and legislative reforms giving priority to dryland issues, and to support participation and ownership by local communities. A UNDP study showed that drylands were inhabited by 2 billion people, rather than 900 million as formally assumed, of which 85 percent were from developing countries. The United Nations Office to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNSO) played an important role through which UNDP provided support to affected countries, particularly in Africa, and strengthened the implementation of the CCD. UNDP offered to host the Global Mechanism and supported a collaborative hosting arrangement to fully draw upon the complementary strengths of the concerned agencies. Yet, one agency should be selected for day-to-day management and accountability. The roles of the other collaborating institutions should be clearly defined to enable them to assume active roles.

7. Mr. Franklin Cardy, UNEP Director of Land, on behalf of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), highlighted that the link between desertification and poverty was direct and intimate. The establishment of coordinating groups at the national level where different government ministries, donors and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) could elaborate the NAP were important. Cooperative arrangements were key to the successful implementation of the CCD. Parties now had a framework for action, and should show that they seriously care and recognize the importance of the issue. UNEP would continue to support implementation efforts at regional and global level, work to achieve improved assessment and science, support the CST, develop projects for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and work to raise awareness of desertification issue worldwide. The availability of adequate financing, combined with total commitment, at the political level and at all levels of government and society were essential to combat desertification.

8. Ambassador Hama Arba Diallo, Executive Secretary of the CCD Secretariat, expressed his satisfaction that COP1 had received considerable attention, and thanked Italy and FAO for hosting the Conference. He reviewed the INCD process, emphasizing the remarkably fast advancement of the CCD process, and stressing the important role Ambassador Bo Kjellén has played. The ratification of the Convention by 112 countries was an extraordinary manifestation of political will. He stressed the priority of Africa, but highlighted the global character of the Convention. Cooperation between developing and developed countries, as well as international organizations and NGOs would be crucial. The common responsibility was to follow-up this Convention, and everyone had a moral duty to combat desertification with one's own means and possibilities. The

recent fires in Southeast Asia and the El Niño effects were evidence of the need to act. COP1 was a determining moment for the future of the Convention. Those who look to Rome expect the international community to set clear signs of commitment and support for the millions of individuals who suffer. The principal objective was to assist the inhabitants of arid zones to use this Convention to combat poverty, to achieve food self-sufficiency and to escape the daily fight of survival.

9. At its 2nd plenary meeting on 30 September, Mr. Calestous Juma, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), described COP1 as an important step to lay the basis for furthering cooperation and synergy among the Rio conventions. He emphasized institutional cooperation between these conventions. Institutional cooperation heralded a new era in the links between international legal instruments and international technical instruments, particularly in bringing their expertise and experience to bear on the implementation of sustainable development programmes at the national and local levels. Of particular interest would be cooperation between the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advise (SBSTTA) under the CBD and the CST under the CCD.

10. At its 5th plenary meeting on 3 October, Mr. Michael Zammit Cutajar, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) made a statement. He expressed his delight that the CCD and FCCC Secretariats would become neighbours again. Both, as well as their sister Convention CBD, were joined by the interaction amongst ecological problems that they address, and by their commitment to sustainable development. The international community had two opportunities to show its commitment to environmental precaution: one was at Rome's COP1, to decide on action to offer millions of people the hope of life in relative security, and the second was in Kyoto, at UNFCCC's COP3 in December 1997, to show that they were seriously committed to reduce global emissions of greenhouse gases. The interlinkage of the two environmental problems was significant, and success in Kyoto would make an important contribution to the fight against desertification. The two secretariats should explore opportunities for cooperation, particularly in capacity building, and streamlining processes for gathering and considering information. A pilot project had started, involving some developing countries to produce national reports that meet the requirements of the three sister conventions. There was also potential of reducing cost of administration, conference services and information technology for the two secretariats in Bonn.

ANNEX II

Statements during the high-level segment of the first session of the Conference of the Parties: list of speakers[1]

		Plenary meeting
Algeria	Mr. Benalia Boulahouadjeb Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries	7
Angola	Mr. João Serôdio de Almeida Vice-Minister of the Environment	9
Armenia	Mr. Samvel Baloyan Deputy Minister for Natural Protection	9
Argentina	Ms. María Julia Alsogaray Secretary for Natural Resources and Sustainable Development, on behalf of the President	12
Bangladesh	Mr. Muhammad Zamir Ambassador of Bangladesh to Italy	9
Belgium	Mr. Reginald Moreels Secretary of State for Development Cooperation	10
Benin	Mr. Sahidou Dango-Nadey Minister of the Environment, Habitat and Urbanism	7
Bolivia	Mr. Erick Reyes Villa Minister of Sustainable Development and Planning	9
Botswana	Mr. Ronald K. Sebego Minister of Agriculture	8
Brazil	Mr. Antônio Augusto Dayrell de Lima Director General of the Department for Special Themes	6
Burkina Faso	Mr. Salif Diallo Minister of State, Minister of the Environment and Water	7
Burundi	Mr. Samuel Bigawa Minister for Land Use and Environment	8
Canada	Mr. Jeremy Kinsman Ambassador of Canada to Italy	1
Cape Verde	Mr. José Antonio Pinto Monteiro Minister of Agriculture, Food and Environment	8
Chad	Mr. Edgar Ngarbaroum Minister of Environment and Water	6

[1]Observer States or Regional Economic Integration Organizations are indicated by an asterisk.

China	Mr. Zhu Guangyao Vice-Minister of Forestry	6
Côte d'Ivoire	Mr. Albert Joseph Tiapani Minister of Environment	6
Cuba	Mr. Juan Nuiry Sanchez Ambassador of Cuba to FAO	10
Denmark	Mr. Poul Nielson Minister for Development	8
Egypt	Mr. Nehad Abdel Latif Ambassador of Egypt to Italy	8
El Salvador	Mr. Enrique Borgo Bustamente Vice-President	12
Equatorial Guinea	Mr. Santiago Ayong Otunga Avomo Director General of the Environment	9
Eritrea	Mr. Semere Amlesom Director General for Research and Human Resources Development, Ministry of Agriculture	9
Ethiopia	Mr. Tewold Berhan Gebre Egziabher General Manager of the Environmental Protection Authority	10
European Union*	Mr. Athanassios Theodorakis Deputy Director General of Development of the European Commission on behalf of the European Community	9
Finland	Mr. David Johansson Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	8
France	Ms. Dominique Voynet Minister of the Environment	6
Gambia (the)	Mr. Edward D. Singhatey Secretary of State for Presidential Affairs, National Assembly, Fisheries and Natural Resources	10
Germany	Mr. Carl Dieter Spranger Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development	7
Ghana	Mr. J.E. Afful Minister for the Environment, Science and Technology	6
Greece	Mr. Elias Beriatos Secretary-General for Forests and Natural Environment	8
Guinea-Bissau	Mr. Roberto Quessangue Secretary of State for Natural Resources and the Environment	8

Haiti	Mr. Yves André Wainright Minister of the Environment	12
Iceland	Mr. Sigurour Thrainsson Head of the Division of Nature and Science, Ministry of the Environment	7
India	Mr. Saifuddin Soz Minister for Environment and Forests	10
Indonesia*	Mr. I. G. M. Tantra Senior Advisor to the Minister of Forestry	9
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Mr. Hamid Kalantari Deputy Minister of Construction Jihad and Head of the Forests Ranges Organizations	6
Israel	Mr. Arie Tenne Director, Division of International Economic Organizations	10
Italy	Mr. Edo Ronchi Minister of the Environment	6
Japan*	Mr. Hiromoto Seki Ambassador of Japan to Italy	10
Jordan	Mr. Tawfiq Krishan Minister of the Environment	7
Kazakhstan	Ms. Gulnar Bekturova Coordinator of the National Action Programme for Desertification	10
Kenya	Mr. William P. Mayaka Permanent Secretary, Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources	8
Kuwait	Mr. Mane Al Sadairawi Head of the Desertification Committee	8
Kyrgyzstan*	Mr. Akeneev Jumakadyr Minister of Agriculture and Water Economics	10
Lebanon	Mr. Chawki Fakhoury Minister of Agriculture	8
Lesotho	Mr. Pakalitha Mosisili Deputy Prime Minister	10
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (the)	Mr. Ali Mohamed Ben Ramadan Minister of Agriculture	6

Luxembourg[2]	Mr. Johny Lahure Minister of the Environment	6
Madagascar	Ms. Colette Vaohita Minister of the Environment	7
Malawi	Mr. F.V. Mayinga Mkandawire Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and Environmental Affairs	8
Malaysia	Mr. R. Vengadesan Ambassador of Malaysia to Italy	8
Mauritania	Mr. Lemrabott Sidi Mahmoud Ould Cheikh Ahmed Minister for Rural Development and the Environment	6
Mexico	Mr. Mario Moya Palencia Ambassador of Mexico to Italy and the FAO	9
Mongolia	Mr. Ts. Adyasuren Minister of Nature and the Environment	7
Morocco	Mr. Abdelaziz Meziane Belfikih Minister of Agriculture, Equipment and Environment	6
Mozambique	Mr. Bernardo Pedro Ferraz Minister for the Coordination of Environmental Action	10
Myanmar	Mr. Khin Nyein Ambassador of Myanmar to Italy	8
Nepal	Mr. Madhav Prasad Ghimire Joint-Secretary, Ministry of Population and the Environment	6
Netherlands (the)	Mr. Gertjan Storm Deputy Director General for International Cooperation	6
Niger (the)	Mr. Brah Mahamane Minister of Water Resources and the Environment	6
Nigeria	Mr. O. Ameyan Director General and Chief Executive of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency	10
Norway	Mr. Geir Grung Ambassador of Norway to Italy	10
Pakistan	Mr. Mahboob Elahi Director General (Environment) Ministry of the Environment, Local Government and Rural Development	7

[2]Speaking also on behalf of the European Union

Panama	Ms. Elia del Carmen Guerra-Quijano Deputy Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations Office at Geneva	9
Peru	Ms. Ana Maria Deustua Caravedo Ambassador of Peru to Italy	10
Poland*	Mr. Dariusz Stanislawski, Minister Counsellor, on behalf of Mr. Stanislaw Zelichowski Minister of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources and Forestry	9
Portugal	Mr. Fernando Gomes da Silva Minister of Agriculture	9
Republic of Korea*	Mr. Sung Hwan Son Counsellor of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations Office at Geneva	10
Russian Federation (the)*	Mr. Yuriy Isakov Deputy Director of the Department for International Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	7
Saudi Arabia	Mr. Abdallah Al-Mussaed Deputy Minister for Water Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Water	8
Senegal	Mr. Abdoulaye Bathily Minister of the Environment	8
South Africa*	Mr. Pallo Zweledinga Jordan Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism	10
Spain	Mrs. Isabel Tocino Biscarolasaga Minister of the Environment	7
Sudan (the)	Mr. Mohamed Said Ali Harbi Permanent Representative of the Sudan to FAO	9
Swaziland	Mr. Lukhele Dambuza II Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives	9
Sweden	Ms. Viola Furubjelke Chairperson of the Foreign Relations Committee of Parliament	6
Switzerland	Mr. Dante Martinelli Ambassador of Switzerland to Italy	10
Syrian Arab Republic (the)	Mr. Abdul-Hamid Al-Monajed Minister for the Environment	6
Togo	Mr. Yao Komlavi Minister of the Environment and Forestry Resources	9

Tunisia	Mr. Mohamed Mehdi Mlika Minister of Environment and Land Management	7
Turkey*	Mr. Erdil K. Akay Ambassador of Turkey to Italy	7
Turkmenistan	Mr. Agadjan G. Babaev Director, Desert Resource Institute	9
Uganda	Mr. Israel Kibirige Sebunya Minister of State for Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries	7
Ukraine*	Mr. Valerii Mikhailov Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	10
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. George Foulkes Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development	6
United Republic of Tanzania[1]	Mr. Bakari Mbonde Minister of State, Office of the Vice-President responsible for the Environment	6
United States of America (the)*	Mr. John R. Garamendi Deputy Secretary, Department of the Interior	6
Uzbekistan	Mr. Anatoliy Ovchinnikov Deputy Minister for Hydrometeorology	9
Zambia	Ms. Irene B. Fundafunda Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations Office at Geneva	8
Zimbabwe	Mr. Simon K. Moyo Minister of Mines, Environment and Tourism	8

[1]Speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China

ANNEX III

List of documents before the first session of the Conference of the Parties

A. Prepared for the first session of the Conference of the Parties

ICCD/COP(1)/1	Adoption of agenda and organization of work
ICCD/COP(1)/1/Corr.1	Adoption of agenda and organization of work
ICCD/COP(1)/1/Corr.1/Rev.1	Adoption of agenda and organization of work
ICCD/COP(1)/2	Draft decisions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties
CCD/COP(1)/2/Corr.1	Draft decisions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties
ICCD/COP(1)/3	Programme and budget
ICCD/COP(1)/3/Add.1	Programme and budget: budget estimates for 1999
ICCD/COP(1)/4	Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
ICCD/COP(1)/4/Add.1	Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
ICCD/COP(1)/5	Global Mechanism: compilation of revised offers of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
ICCD/COP(1)/5/Add.1	Global Mechanism: compilation of revised offers of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
ICCD/COP(1)/5/Add.2	Global Mechanism: compilation of revised offers of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
ICCD/COP(1)/Add.2/Rev.1	Global Mechanism: compilation of revised offers of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
ICCD/COP(1)/6	Proposed roster of independent experts
ICCD/COP(1)/6/Add.1	Proposed roster of independent experts
ICCD/COP(1)/7	Urgent action in Africa and interim measures: compilation of information
ICCD/COP(1)/8	List of non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation or observer status
ICCD/COP(1)/9	Adoption of recommendations to the Conference and other decisions and conclusions requiring action by the Conference of the Parties: Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning
ICCD/COP(1)/10	Credentials of the representatives of Parties
ICCD/COP(1)/11	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its first session
ICCD/COP(1)/CRP.1	Letter dated 22 September 1997 from the representatives of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Desertification Office of the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank addressed to the Executive Secretary of the Convention to Combat Desertification
ICCD/COP(1)/CRP.2	Letter dated 24 September 1997 from the representative of the United Nations Development Programme Office to Combat Desertification and Drought addressed to the Executive Secretary of the Convention to Combat Desertification
ICCD/COP(1)/CRP.3	Letter dated 30 September 1997 from the representative of the International Fund for Agricultural Development addressed to the Executive Secretary of the Convention to Combat Desertification
ICCD/COP(1)/Inf.1	Preliminary information for participants
ICCD/COP(1)/Inf.2	Information for participants on parallel events

B. List of documents prepared for the first session of the Committee on Science and Technology

ICCD/COP(1)/CST/1	Adoption of agenda and organization of work of the CST
ICCD/COP(1)/CST/2	Survey and evaluation of existing networks
ICCD/COP(1)/CST/2/Add.1	Supplementary report on survey and evaluation of existing networks
ICCD/COP(1)CST/3	Report on work on benchmarks and indicators
ICCD/COP(1)/CST/3/Add.1	Supplementary report on work on benchmarks and indicators
ICCD/COP(1)/CST/4	Report on work of other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the CST
ICCD/COP(1)/CST/5	Reports on modalities and timing of future work on inventories of research and traditional knowledge; establishment of research priorities

C. Other documents for reference at the first session of the Conference of the Parties

A/AC.241/44	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative arrangements
A/AC.241/54/Add.1	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location - Offer of the Government of Canada
A/AC.241/54/Add.2	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location - Offer of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany
A/AC.241/54/Add.3	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location - Offer of the Government of Spain
A/AC.241/55	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative arrangements
A/AC.241/55/Add.1	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative arrangements - Offer of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
A/AC.241/55/Add.2	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative arrangements - Offer of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
A/AC.241/63	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location
A/52/82/Add.1	Report on resumed tenth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Desertification